REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of the present invention in view of the above-presented amendments and the following remarks.

This amendment is in response to a Final Office Action, mailed on January 26, 2004..

Status of the Claims:

Claims 1 through 16 are pending in the subject patent application. Claims 13 through 16 are allowable, Claim 9 is objected to and Claims 1-8 and 10-12 are rejected.

Claim 9 is objected to but would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate the limitations presented in claims from which it depends. Therefore, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to limit its scope to the scope of Claim 9 to place claim 9 is condition for allowance.

Applicants have canceled Claims 10 and 12.

Claims 2 through 8, drawn to an interconnect, have been effectively canceled by amending such claims to depend from claim 13 (allowable). The scope of Claims 2 through 8 (as amended) does not present new matter nor require an additional search as Claim 13 presents the interconnect formerly described in Claims 2 through 8
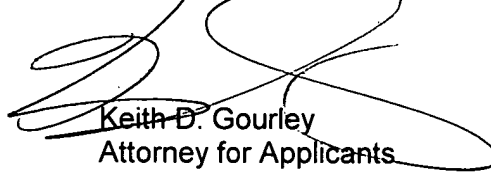(as originally presented).

Claim 11, drawn to an interconnect, has been effectively canceled by amending the claim to depend from Claim 15 (allowable). The scope of Claim 11 (as amended) does not present new matter nor require an additional search as Claim 15 presents the interconnect formerly described in Claim 11 (as originally presented).

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C and Claims 5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been rendered moot based upon Applicants' amendment of the Claims as set forth in this paper.

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Summary

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections and objections set forth by the Examiner have been overcome and Applicants request favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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